

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No. K-116

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Yeates House Knock's Folly

and/or common Yeates House (site)

2. Location

street & number Turners Creek Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Kennedyville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name County Commissioners of Kent County

street & number Kent County Courthouse telephone no.: 410-778-4600

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 47

street & number Cross Street folio 477

city, town Chestertown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Kent County Widnshield Survey

date 1970 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. K-116

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move 1970 to Balto. Co.

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

On a small peninsula of land at the Public Landing jutting eastward into Turner's Creek stood a small early frame house reputed to have been the home of Donaldson Yeates between the years 1770 and 1796. The house was removed to Baltimore County in 1970. After that time the land was purchased by the County and is presently used for a public picnic area.

The house stood on a stone basement and had two brick chimneys, the east one within the structure and the west built outside its walls. From the evidence in the west chimney the original kitchen or service wing was located on the west side of the building, but in the 19th Century a board and batten kitchen was installed on the east gable. The entrance in the center bay of the three bay facade was flanked by a pair of seats, a practice found throughout Kent County. The south side apparently always had a porch or piazza. That undoubtedly aided in preserving the original beaded featheredge clapboard siding, although the north side retained its beaded weatherboard.

The A roof had two hip dormers on each side, a feature it had in common with the Hynson-Ringgold House (c. 1743). The plan of the first floor was a very common hall/parlor plan with winder stair behind the panelling in the hall. The second floor plan consisted of a corridor with two tiny rooms on the north (one un-lighted) and a larger room on the west end. The small east room had a fireplace.

1 of the partitions throughout the house were beaded vertical boards with double beads, similar to the partitions of the Buck-Bacchus Store and the Buck-Chambers House, both built soon after 1735.

The hall paneling had an elliptical headed fireplace opening surrounded by bolelection molding with tall thin panels flanking the fireplace, suggesting pilasters. This was further emphasized by the crown molding breaking out only above the panels. The entire first floor was paneled, with fielded panels east of the entrance doors and vertical boards to the west.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-116

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1740 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Yeates House site is important to the history of Kent County because it was an active place of business serving the needs of the locale in the second half of the 18th Century and early 19th Century. The house was built on a seven-acre tract called Knocks Folly, soon after it was surveyed in 1738. The house was an important vernacular structure showing signs of early Georgian influence in its interior. After 1770, when the property was acquired by Donaldson Yeates, merchant, the small peninsula was developed into a thriving village which served both land and sea. Yeates was also an important figure in the Revolutionary War for supplying the troops with various necessities.

Donaldson Yeates, merchant of New Castle, Delaware and Tobias Rudolph, merchant of Cecil County, purchased a seven-acre parcel called Knocks Folly in 1770. The land had surveyed in 1738 and patented in 1753, just after Thomas Crosby had purchased it from Henry Knock. Yeates and Rudolph acquired it from Crosby's heir.

In the 1783 Tax Assessment Yeates' real estate holdings at Turner's Creek are listed with 14 acres and the notation "Good Buildings and several of them." Elsewhere, he held 1792½ acres with 56 slaves and sixty white inhabitants thereon.

Not only was Donaldson Yeates a successful merchant at Turner's Creek, but he was actively involved in the Revolution, serving as a colonel in the Kent County Militia, 27th Battalion. He was appointed Deputy Quarter Master General of Maryland in 1780 and appears regularly in the correspondence concerning supplies for the troops. He was a member of the Lower House in the State Legislature, served as a Justice on the Orphan's Court and Associate Judge for the County, resigning in 1794. One year prior to his resignation he advertised in the Apollo that he was closing his accounts and transferring his business to his nephews John Lathin and James Corrie.

In February of 1796 Yeates wrote his will leaving his estate to his wife Mary Syng Yeates for the education of his children and the choice of his Turner's Creek real estate to his son George or John. In a codicil written about a week before his death he stated,

"It is my will and desire that the building that I am about projecting shall be fully finished and this to be done at the expense of my estate."

This is a reference to the brick structure known as Knock's Folly at the top of the hill.

Yeates' inventory lists store goods and 2 vessels held in partnership. The vessels consisted of a sloop called the "George and Eliza" after two of his children and a schooner called "Nancy." Debts due his estate amounted to over \$3,000, a third of which was due from "the United States of America" - most likely debts from the Revolution.

After his death, Donaldson Yeates' body was buried at nearby Shrewsbury Church yard, where he had been a vestry member in 1793 and where his son George, who took over the Turners' Creek properties, was to serve likewise in 1803 and 1804.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K116

Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, 1934, p. 226.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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1. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County, Inc. date February 1995

street & number P.O. Box 663

telephone 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state MD

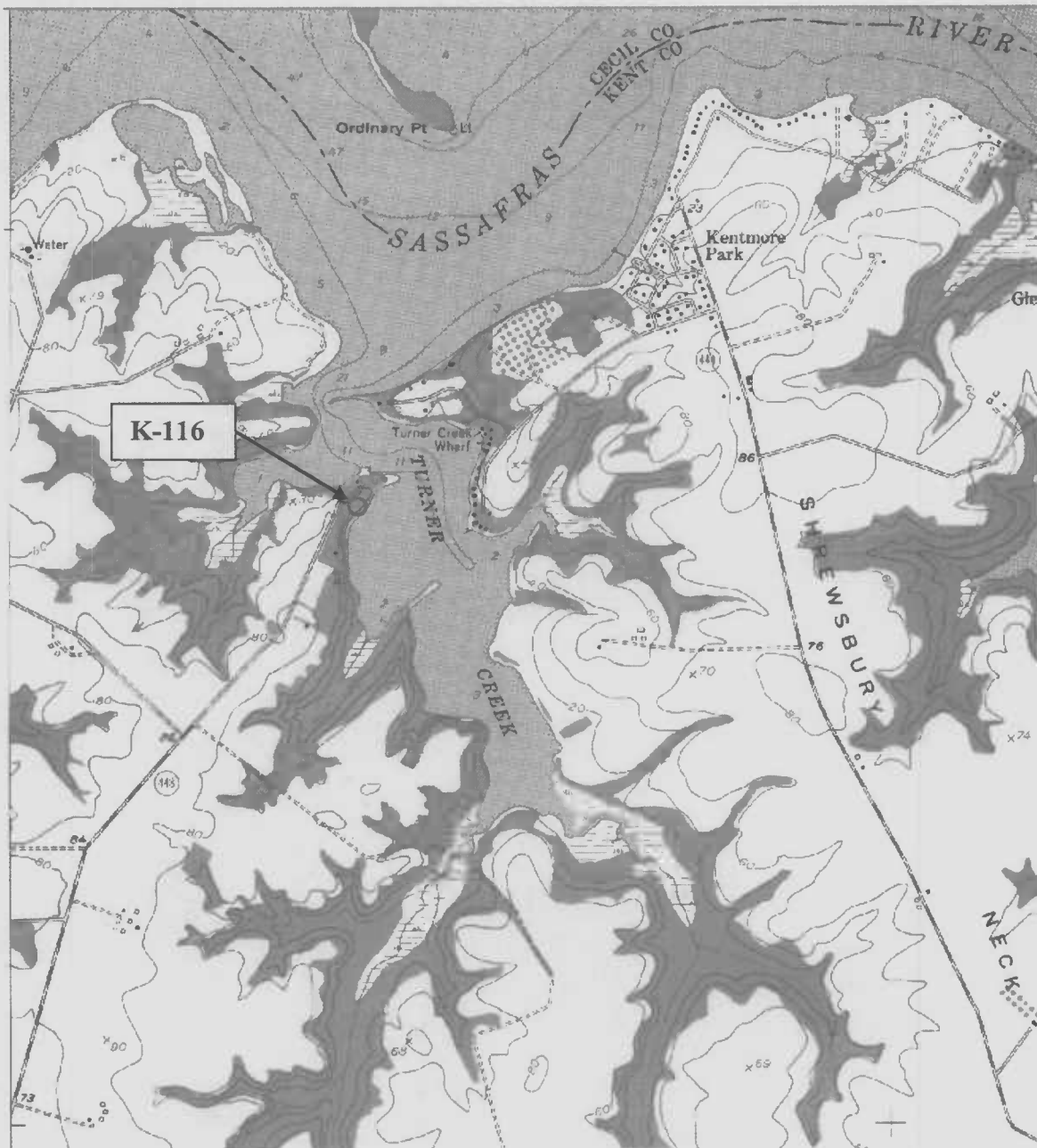
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
410-7600

K-116
Yeats House (Moved to site in 1968)
Turners Creek Road (MD 448)
Galena Quadrangle





K-116
Yeats House
Turners Creek Road (MD 448)
Michael O. Bourne
1964
Neg. on file at MHT

K-116
Yeats House
Turners Creek Road (MD 448)
Michael O. Bourne
1964
Neg. on file at MHT



K-116
Yeats House
Turners Creek Road (MD 448)
Owner's photo, copied by
Michael O. Bourne
1964
Neg. on file at MHT

K-116
Yeats House
Turners Creek Road (MD 448)
Owner's 1938 photo, copied by
Michael O. Bourne
1964
Neg. on file at MHT